

Department of Energy

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AUG 8 2011

PPPO-03-1117997-11

Mr. Richard H. Snyder, Chair Mr. Larry A. Parker, Vice-Chair Portsmouth EM Site Specific Advisory Board 1862 Shyville Road, Suite 115 Piketon, Ohio 45661

Dear Sirs:

PORTSMOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 11-01: SITING CRITERIA FOR A POTENTIAL CERCLA CELL

Reference:

Letter from R. Snyder and L. Parker to J. Bradburne, "Recommendation 11-01:

Siting Criteria for a Potential Cercla Cell," dated January 10, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would like to thank the Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for Recommendation 11-01, which provides valuable direction and illustrates the board's priorities in regard to the potential construction of a waste disposal facility.

It is clear the board is mindful of various issues related to waste disposal, including various uses of the land on the reservation, the impact on cultural resources and aesthetic considerations. DOE accepts the recommendation and will give careful review to the outlined issues that are important to the board and the community.

Of the 12 items listed in the recommendation, many are under current evaluation as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process and DOE's Portsmouth Site Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) planning. Specifically, many of the siting aspects of the recommendation are under evaluation (i.e., reuse of existing landfills, not impacting areas for potential reuse, blending with existing terrain for aesthetic purposes). If the community deems an on-site disposal facility as the appropriate path forward, DOE will be respectful of the community's wishes in regard to waste acceptance criteria and the use of cell technology that is protective of human health and the environment. However, if any of the board's concerns are not addressed in these efforts, DOE will ensure that information is properly communicated.

The work of the Portsmouth SSAB is valued and appreciated. DOE looks forward to continuing its dialogue with the Portsmouth SSAB in order to understand the board's priorities. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Joel B. Bradburne Portsmouth Site Lead

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

cc:

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